Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Flores Villela, O., H.M. Smith, E.A. Liner, and D. Chiszar. 2008. *Sceloporus ochoterenae*.

Sceloporus ochoterenae Smith
Ochoterena's Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus scalaris: Duméril, Bocourt, and Mocquard 1874:202 (nec Wiegmann) (part).
Sceloporus gratiosus: Ferrari-Perez 1886:193 (nec Yarrow).
Sceloporus aeneus var.: Ferrari-Perez 1886:193 (nec Wiegmann).
Sceloporus graciosus: Cope 1887:36 (part).
Sceloporus variabilis: Günther 1890:75 (part).
Sceloporus ochoterenæ Smith 1934:269. Type-locality, "two miles north of Mazatlán (12 miles south of Chilpancingo), Guerrero, Mexico". Holotype, EHT /HMS 1075, Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) 100052, male, collected 26 June 1932 by E.H. Taylor and H.M. Smith.
Sceloporus aeneus: Ahl 1934:184 (nec Wiegmann).
Sceloporus ochoterenai: Smith and Taylor 1950b: 133.
Lysoptychus ochoterenae: Larsen and Tanner 1975: 18.
Sceloporus ochoterenaei: Wiens 1993:294. *Lapsus*.

• **CONTENT**. No subspecies are currently recognized.

• **DEFINITION**. Maximum SVL ca. 55 mm.; about 10 paravertebral, transverse dark spots on each side of body, separated by a brownish vertebral line, and bordered by a dorsolateral light line, in females and young males; adult males may become nearly uniform tan above, and always have a weaker dorsal pattern than females; head scales more or less normal, except for absence of postrostrals; internasals and nasals contacting rostral; a single row of large supraoculars; dorsal scales 38–46, mean 42.4, keeled, mucronate, weakly denticulate; lateral scales similar in character to dorsals, half or one third as large; ventral scales smaller than laterals, smallest medially, smooth, notched except for preanals; femoral pores 10–16 on each side, the two series separated by 2–6 scales; preanals keeled in females; a pair of enlarged postanals in males. Oviparous.

• **DIAGNOSIS**. This species is one of the most distinctive of the genus, differing from all others by the combination of absence of postrostrals and postfemoral dermal pockets, and presence of 10–16 femoral pores on each side. The keeled preanals in females are very unusual, otherwise found only in the *siniferus* species group (to which *S. ochoterenae* was once assigned [Smith 1939] on this basis). The only other species with no postrostrals and no postfemoral dermal pocket is *S. jalapae*, its closest relative, with which it forms a separate *jalapae* species group (Thomas and Dixon 1976, Cole 1978, Wiens and Reeder 1997). *S. ochoterenae* differs from *S. jalapae* most conspicuously in number of femoral pores (10–16, vs 17–21) and number of dorsals, occiput to rear borders of thighs (38–46, vs 50–62). The only other species of the genus without postrostrals is *S. maculosus*, which has postfemoral dermal pockets and differs from the *jalapae* species group in numerous other respects.



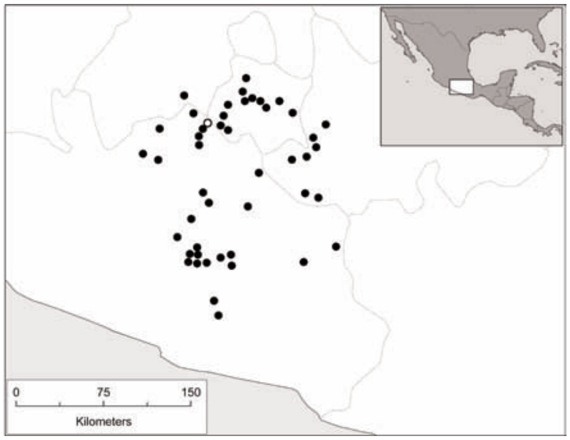
FIGURE 1. A female *S. ochoterenae* from Ixcateopan de Cuauhtemoc, Guerrero. Photograph by Luis Canseco Márquez.

• **DESCRIPTIONS**. Other descriptions are in Castro-Franco and Aranda-Escobar (1984), Hernández García (1989), Köhler and Heimes (2002), Saldaña de la Riva and Pérez Ramos (1987), and Smith (1934, 1939, 1984).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS**. A color photograph of a male and a female is in Köhler and Heimes (2002), and head scales are illustrated in a line drawing by Smith (1934, 1939).

• **DISTRIBUTION**. Observed in summer, autumn and winter in dry situations on the ground in rocky areas in deciduous and juniper forests at elevations from 520 to reputedly 2134 m northward from southeastern central Guerrero (Rincón/Cajones) to central Morelos (Cuernavaca region), westward into extreme southern Mexico State, eastward to western Puebla, and in Guerrero to near its northeastern border with Oaxaca at Alpoyeca (Guerrero range mapped by Saldaña de la Riva and Pérez Ramos, 1987). The species undoubtedly occurs in adjacent areas in the state of Oaxaca.

The material reported as *Sceloporus scalaris* by Gadow (1905) from Tierra Colorada, Guerrero, assigned to this species by Smith (1939), has incorrect locality data (Davis and Dixon 1961, Edmundo Pérez-Ramos, pers. comm.), but its identity as *Sceloporus ochoterenae* has been confirmed (Smith et al., 2000). Gadow's other records in Guerrero for *scalaris* (Chilpancingo, Río Balsas) are almost certainly correctly assigned to *ochoterenae*. The specimen from Coyoacán, Distrito Federal, reported by Smith (1939) has incorrect locality data. Olson et al. (1986) listed the species for Puente de Ixtla, Veracruz; the state was a *lapsus* for Morelos. Smith (1939) erroneously refer-



Map. The circle indicates the type-locality, the dots other occurrence records.

red Cope's (1887) and Ferrari-Perez's (1886) records for [Ixtlan de] Matamoros to *S. jalapae*. Records for Oaxaca (Casas Andreu et al. 1997) pertain to *S. jalapae*.

• **FOSSIL RECORD**. None. The name was mentioned by Wellstead (1982) in connection with fossils of other species of the genus in Nebraska.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE**. **Anatomy** (Larsen and Tanner 1974, 1975; Olson et al. 1986, 1987), **behavior** (Purdue and Carpenter 1972), **bibliographies** (Smith and Smith 1976, 1993), **checklists, keys, and similar compendia** (Aguilar Benítez 1990; Bell et al. 2003; Casas Andreu 1982; Casas Andreu et al. 2004; Castro Franco et al. 1986; Cochran 1961; Cuesta Terron 1932; Duellman 1965; Flores Villela 1993; Flores Villela et al. 1995; Frank and Ramus 1995; Hutchins et al. 2003; Liner 1994, 1996, 2007; Marx 1976; Smith 1936, 1987, 1991; Smith and Taylor 1950a,b; Smith et al. 1964; Sokolof 1988; Taylor 1944), **conservation** (Bojórquez-Tapia et al. 1995; García 2006), **ecology and zoogeography** (Camarillo and Aguilar 1992; Camarillo and Smith 1992; Castro Franco 2002; Castro Franco and Aranda Escobar 1984, 1985; Castro Franco and Bustos Zagal 1994, 2003; Davis and Dixon 1961; Davis and Smith 1953; Flores Villela 1993; Flores Villela and Gerez 1988, 1994; Flores-Villela and Hernández-García 2006; Flores Villela et al. 1991; García-Vazquez et al. 2006; Hernández García 1989; Köhler and Heimes 2002; Lemos-Espinal et al. 1997; Saldaña de la Riva and Pérez Ramos 1987; Sites et al. 1992; Smith 1934, 1939, 1984), **karyology** (Cole 1978), **parasites** (Pelaez et al. 1948), **phylogenetics and evolution** (Flores-Villela et al. 2000; Harmon et al. 2003; Larsen and Tanner 1974, 1975; Schulte et al. 2003; Sites et al. 1992; Wiens 1993, 1998, 1999; Wiens and Reeder 1997; Wills 1977), **reproduction** (Davis and Dixon 1961: Fitch 1970; Guillette et al. 1980; Méndez-de la Cruz et al. 1998; Saldaña de la Riva and Pérez Ramos 1987; Smith et al. 2003).

• **REMARKS**. Specimens of this species were known but mis-identified as *S. scalaris, S. graciosus, S. gratiosus* or *S. aeneus* from at least 1874 to 1934. Some were referred to *S. jalapae* as late as 1939. All of these species are of about the same size, and have somewhat similar patterns, but morphologically *ochoterenae* and *jalapae* are much different from the others.

The correct ending of this patronym, under the rules of the first (1926), second (1961) and third (1964) editions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature was *ochoterenai*, although the name was originally spelled *ochoterenae*. Therefore in Smith and Taylor (1950b) the supposedly correct spelling was introduced as *ochoterenai*. The former spelling would have been proper if the name were considered to be latinized, rather than modern, but the 1926 Code explicitly excluded considerations of latinization (the 1961 and 1964 Codes did not treat the subject). The spelling *ochoterenai* followed the unexceptional rule (1926, 1961) or recommendation (1964) distinguishing patronyms from matronyms of modern names. Not until the fourth (1999) edition of the Code appeared was it required under the Code to give an eponym an ending conformant with Latin grammar if the name were considered latinized (Art. 31.1.1). The 1999 Code explicitly states that its provisions supercede those of previous editions. Therefore the proper ending of this patronym depends on whether the name was originally considered latinized or not. It obviously was, and therefore the name under the 1999 Code should be spelled *ochoterenae*. This conclusion is not destabilizing, inasmuch as the –*ai* ending was used 17 times in the tallied literature, the –*ae* ending 21 times. The –*ae* ending has been used as recently as 2002, and the –*ai* ending as recently as 1995.

• **ETYMOLOGY**. The name honors Dr. Isaac Ochterena, former Director of the Instituto de Biología of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, in recognition of numerous courtesies extended to Taylor and Smith in their collecting trip of 1932.

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